14: Krauss--169-170 E-5 (no date) 1888 Yakut
116, 158, 756, 828

This disease [RCH: i.e., merjak disease; see category 116, p. 168-169] sometimes takes such a form that the patients comply with the most absurd commands of anybody, and often become the puppets of naughty street arabs.

I have deemed it advisable to insist somewhat on this kind of disease, because the shamans, more than the ordinary autochthonous population, suffer from nervousness and irritability. This tendency is particularly outspoken when they get into ecstasy while performing a mystery, or when they try to excite themselves with wild, frightening cries, turns on the spot, and violent move-[170]ments of the head. The population is of the opinion that the shaman at the time of the mystery performance reveals prophesies, because he is obsessed by the devil, the spirit of darkness, or hell. The Satans either obsess the shaman of their own accord, or because they are invited by the latter.

14: Krauss--175 [2] E-5 (no date) 1888 Yakut
116, 756, 771, 828

It is difficult to consider as normal the mental state of the autochthonous Yakuts while they are performing magic ceremonies. I am not able to read from their faces, which otherwise are very vivid, and I can only say that I always wished that the shaman might finish his ceremony, the earlier the better. Imagine the scene: a little tent with a smoking hearth, before the fire, the obsessed fanatic, who is hardly prevented by two youthful men from throwing himself into the fire or at least breaking his head. The unarticulated roaring and the wild cries may upset even a person who has normal nerves. The shaman is so absorbed in his role that he forgets himself completely. He is evidently convinced of his intercourse with the powerful, evil spirits, whom he need not fear; against whose evil, capricious, and otherwise inexorable will he is now to act by using his entire person which he puts at their disposal. Even if one does not admit that Christianized natives always believe in shamanism, it must be said that all of them, without exception, are afraid of it. Persons who are fully reliable even protested they had known a (Christian) priest who had beaten a shaman and the latter had taken vengeance by making the priest become insane.